Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada

Second Edition

Henry A. Gleason
Arthur Cronquist

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
1991
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The second edition of the United States and American Manual (1993, 1996, 1998, 2003) was published following Cronquist's American Flora. However, by mid-1999, the need for a new update became apparent, and a decision was made to prepare a new edition that reflected the advances in botanical knowledge, no additional edition was prepared in 2003.

By mid-1999, the remix of the Manual soon was to be published. The production of the second edition of the Manual had been relatively simple, as it was made up of the corrections into the text. This was made by the author, Skliarčáková, from the California Academy of Sciences, while her husband, the publisher, was responsible for the technical aspects of the publication.

Although many changes were made to the Manual, this is not a revision. The changes include:

1. Short biographies of the authors.
2. Photographs of plants and animals.
3. The glossary was made more comprehensive.
4. Most of the corrections were made by the author, D. Cantino, Kathleen C. Bird, Patricia K. Holmgren, and Floyd A. R. Compton.
5. Miscellaneous errors were corrected.
6. Author abbreviations were changed from "Gmel." to "Gmelin"
7. Where it was straight from the published volume, the size of the font was increased.
8. New and much more complete common names were added.
9. The trim size of the book was changed to 8.5 x 11 inches.

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Preface

This manual is intended to facilitate the identification of vascular plants growing wild in the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. The part of the United States covered extends from the Atlantic Ocean west to the western boundaries of Minnesota, Iowa, northern Missouri, and southern Illinois, south to the southern boundaries of Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois, and south to the Missouri River in Missouri. In Canada the area covered includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and the parts of Quebec and Ontario lying south of the 47th parallel of latitude.

This second edition of the manual is based on the first edition (1963), which in turn was based on the New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora (1952), by H. A. Gleason and collaborators. Gleason himself wrote the treatment for more than three-fourths of the species of his flora, and I did a little more than half of the remainder, comprising the family Compositae (Asteraceae) except the Vernonieae. I now take full responsibility for the entire contents of the manual.

In general, I retain the previous treatment unless recent literature or consultation with other botanists or my own field experience suggests the need for change. Perhaps the most drastic changes are in the treatments of Panicum and the stemless blue violets. For Panicum I have drawn heavily on the treatment by Gould & Clark (1978) of the Dichanthelium group. The treatment of the stemless blue violets reflects my own observations in the field over several decades.

It seems appropriate to abandon the historically useful but now moribund Englerian arrangement of the families and orders of angiosperms, in favor of a more modern arrangement taken from the second (1988) edition of my own Evolution and Classification of Flowering Plants.

In addition to the artificial key to families (based on that of Gleason), a synoptical arrangement in key form is presented for the families, orders, and subclasses of dicotyledons and monocotyledons. Inasmuch as these orders and subclasses are not amenable to mutually exclusive phylletic characterization, the formal treatment of angiosperms in this text goes directly from the class to the family. The higher taxa of gymnosperms and vascular cryptogams, in contrast, are phyletically meaningful and are therefore formally presented in the text.


Arthur Cronquist